

# What The Blind Man Saw



Discovering God's Word  
Bible Study Series

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# What The Blind Man Saw

## Introduction

A. Saul of Tarsus was a fierce enemy of Christ and Christians at one time. We meet Saul in Acts 7:58, at the stoning of Stephen (Acts 22:20). After this, Saul worked at trying to eliminate Christianity (Acts 8:1, 3; Acts 26:9-11; Acts 9:1-2).

B. What happened next is a truly amazing set of circumstances. Acts 9:3-19 records this man's conversion to Jesus Christ (also described in Acts 22:6-21 and Acts 26:12-23).

C. Purpose: To learn some things Saul saw while he was blind that caused him to give his life to Jesus Christ, as the result of what he saw and heard on the road to Damascus.

## 1. He Saw Jesus As The Messiah

A. He saw he had rejected the Messiah

1. When Saul was traveling to Damascus, he really believed Christianity was false. Listen to what he wrote later in 1 Timothy 1:12-14.

- Everything he did as a persecutor of the Christian faith was done out of ignorance in unbelief. He had clearly rejected Jesus as an imposter of the Messiah God had promised.

2. Saul became convinced Jesus is the Messiah on the road to Damascus.

- Saul was fighting a losing battle against Jesus in persecuting Him (Acts 26:14), like an ox that would kick against the goad a farmer would use to prod the animal in the right direction – inflicting more pain on itself. Imagine how Saul's heart must have sunk when he discovered he was talking with Jesus (Acts 22:8)! Saul saw there was simply no denying the fact that Jesus of Nazareth was alive and well – just as those Christians he had been persecuting had said!

3. Today, no matter what you have been told, you must see Jesus as the Messiah. The evidence is overwhelming, and you must examine it with honest and unbiased eyes!

- See the evidence of the great miracles He performed, the hundreds of Old Testament prophecies He fulfilled, and the empty tomb that proves Jesus rose from the dead!

## B. He saw Jesus as the Savior

1. The significance of Jesus being the Son of God and Messiah is also that He would bring the opportunity of great spiritual blessings to everyone (Genesis 12:3)!

- Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). His sacrifice was the only one capable of removing sin (Matthew 26:26-29; Hebrews 10:4).

2. When Saul saw Jesus as the Messiah, he also began to see Jesus as the Savior (1 Timothy 1:15) and recognized what Peter had declared earlier in Acts 4:12.

3. Today, having embraced Jesus as the Messiah, you must see Jesus as the Savior.

- Recognize that Jesus left Heaven to come to this earth and experienced horrible things (i.e. ridicule, flogging, crucifixion) – to save sinners from Hell (Romans 6:23)!

## C. He saw his opportunity to be saved

1. The truth that Jesus is the Messiah and Savior of the world was not just a nice fact Saul now recognized. Instead, this meant Saul could now be saved through Jesus!

- After Jesus identified Himself to Saul, Saul asked what he should do (Acts 22:10).

2. While Saul could have had many responses to seeing the truth that Jesus is the Messiah and Savior (i.e. continued rebellion for personal gain, fear of persecution, guilt of the past), his question indicates he saw his opportunity to be saved.

- He saw his personal need for Jesus to save him, that Jesus was greater than any sin he had committed, the opportunity to be forgiven, and the opportunity to live in Jesus's service.

3. Today, you need to see that Jesus Christ gives you the opportunity to be saved.

- Jesus died for your sins – just as He did for Saul's (Galatians 1:13)! Never think you have done so much wrong Jesus cannot save you (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

## 2. He Saw He Had Been Wrong

### A. He saw he was a sinner

1. Before Saul encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was convinced he was living right (Acts 26:9; Philippians 3:6).

- He was diligently striving to keep the law as a Pharisaic Jew in the strictest sense (Philippians 3:5; Acts 22:5) and he did not see himself as a guilty sinner.

2. All that changed when Saul met Jesus, as he saw what he had been doing in a different light.

- Not only did he now see himself as a sinner; but he saw himself as the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), humbly recognizing the terrible things he had done.

3. Today, you need to humbly accept the truth that you have sinned against God.

- No matter how much you may have wanted to do what is right and thought you had done right, you have sinned (Romans 3:23).

### B. He saw that being religious is not enough

1. Saul was a devoutly religious person when he was traveling to Damascus. Jesus did not make him religious (Acts 22:3-5).

- Saul (if he was like many today) could have told Jesus, “All that matters is that I am religious and practice my religion in the way I believe is right. If you really are a loving Savior, you will love me for how I choose to practice my religion.”

2. Saul saw it is possible to be religious (even devoutly religious) and still be wrong.

- His religion was not pleasing to God just because he had believed in God and did what he thought was right. Saul saw his religion was wrong because it went against the truth God revealed – and he obeyed Jesus!

3. Today, you must see that being religious is not enough to please God and be saved.

- Even within what is commonly called “Christianity,” Jesus taught that many who profess Him as Lord will be eternally lost

because they do not obey God (Matthew 7:21-23)! Do not find comfort in your religion unless it is true according to the Bible!

### C. He saw that his religious traditions were wrong

1. Saul lived by the Old Testament law (which was no longer in effect, Colossians 2:14).

- As a Pharisee, he also practiced religion based on Jewish traditions that added to the law God had given (Matthew 15:7-9; Galatians 1:13-16).

2. Saul allowed his religious traditions to be challenged by Jesus.

- He chose to follow Jesus regardless of how many people would be angry with him for rejecting the Jewish traditions (and he was even persecuted because of this).

3. Today, you must evaluate your religious traditions to see whether they please God.

- Evaluate why you believe everything you currently believe and why you do everything you currently do. Let Jesus expose anything that is contrary to His way of truth. Then, determine to obey Jesus rather than continuing to practice your human traditions.

### D. He saw that his conscience was wrong

1. When Saul was traveling on the road to Damascus, he had a clear conscience.

- Saul even persecuted Christians with a clear conscience (Acts 23:1), believing he was pleasing God. Yet, when he met Jesus, he saw his conscience had been wrong.

2. Saul saw that he only lived with a good conscience in doing wicked things because he had trained himself to believe those actions were right.

- The clear conscience did not absolve him of the sins he had committed. He never once defended himself before Jesus on the basis of having a good conscience.

3. Today, you must see that your conscience can be wrong.

- Your conscience is a product of how you train it and is not the standard. God expects you to allow the truth of His word to train your conscience.

### 3. He Saw He Must Do Something To Be Saved

#### A. He saw he could not be saved by faith alone

1. Although many people say that Saul was saved on the road to Damascus, the Scriptures teach the opposite.

- When Saul asked Jesus what he should do, Jesus told him to go into the city to be told what he *must* do (Acts 22:10; Acts 9:6).

2. Saul had already believed in Jesus at this point (even calling Him “Lord”), but he was not saved.

- Since Jesus told him to go into the city to be told what he *must* do, we must follow Saul into the city to learn what he had to do to be saved!

3. Today, you must see that you are not saved by faith alone (though you may have been taught that you are).

- Many believe and teach that salvation is by faith alone (i.e. at the point of mentally accepting Jesus). But, the Bible teaches you are not saved at this moment (James 2:24)!

#### B. He saw he could not be saved by prayer

1. Saul saw that prayer was not enough to save him.

- Although prayer does have a place in receiving forgiveness *after* someone becomes a Christian and sins (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9), prayer does *not* bring about initial forgiveness.

2. After Jesus appeared to Saul, Acts 9:9 says he was unable to eat or drink for three days. And, when Jesus told Ananias to go preach to Saul, He said Saul was praying (Acts 9:11).

- Here was a sinner who was praying. Yet, he had still not been told what he must do to be saved! If he had been saved, he was the most miserable saved man ever!

3. Today, you must see that you are not saved by prayer whenever you initially come to Jesus Christ.

- The Bible never teaches the “Sinner’s Prayer” (asking Jesus into your heart) that is commonly taught and practiced today – and this will not save you!

#### C. He saw the need for obedience

1. Saul saw that he must do something to be saved (Acts 9:6).

- If Saul had been saved on the road to Damascus, there would have been nothing left he had to do! Yet, he still had to learn what Jesus required and obey Him.

2. Saul was not confused about this on the road to Damascus. He knew he needed to obey Jesus to be saved and knew he could not earn his salvation!

- There is a difference between works of merit to earn salvation (Romans 4:1-4; Ephesians 2:8-9) and works of obedience (Hebrews 11; James 2:14-26).

3. Today, you must see that you must obey Jesus to be saved.

- The Bible is clear in teaching you must: Hear God's words (Romans 10:17), believe in Jesus Christ (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10), be baptized (Acts 2:38), and remain faithful to Christ (Revelation 2:10). Those who do not obey the gospel will be punished (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)!

#### D. He saw the need for baptism

1. When Saul met with Ananias and learned what he had to do to be saved, Saul was baptized (Acts 9:18). Acts 22:16 shows why he was baptized.

- If Saul was saved on the road to Damascus, he was saved before Ananias knew it (because Ananias told him to be baptized and wash away his sins), before he knew it (because he did what Jesus said and was baptized), and before the Lord knew it (because Jesus told him to go into the city, knowing he would be told to be baptized to wash away his sins).

2. Saul saw the immediate need to be baptized to have his sins washed away (forgiven) and that it was necessary to calling on the name of the Lord (Romans 10:13).

- In baptism, Saul was obeying Jesus's command and expressing his faith in and dependence on Jesus Christ for salvation.

3. Today, you must see your need to be baptized to have your sins washed away and be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:20-21).

- Baptism is a work that has been commanded and required by God for you to be saved. If you have not been baptized in the right way (by immersion, Romans 6:3-4) and for the right



reasons (to be saved, forgiven, and enter a right relationship with Christ), you must be baptized immediately!

E. He saw the need to live for Jesus

1. Saul saw his need to continually live for Jesus Christ (Acts 26:16-18).

- He was obedient to God, giving his life to Jesus (Acts 26:19-20; Galatians 2:20).

2. Even though this meant Paul would suffer intense persecution in serving Jesus and preaching to others, he was determined to faithfully obey Jesus.

- He knew Jesus would save him in the end (1 Corinthians 9:27; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)!

3. Today, you must see your need to live faithfully for Jesus throughout your life.

- If you do, you will receive the crown of life in Heaven (Revelation 2:10).

## **Conclusion**

A. Saul was struck blind on the road to Damascus. Yet, even though he was blind, he saw some great things.

B. Today, if you desire to please Jesus Christ and have Heaven as your eternal home, you must see all these same things and obey what God commands.

C. If you will, your eyes will be opened and you will be turned from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power God, so you will receive the forgiveness of your sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in Jesus (Acts 26:18)!

## **Study Questions**

Who was Saul? What happened to Saul?

### **1. He Saw Jesus As The Messiah**

What did Saul see about having rejected Jesus as the Messiah?

What did Saul see about Jesus as the Savior?

What did Saul see about his opportunity to be saved?

### **2. He Saw He Had Been Wrong**

What did Saul see about being a sinner?

What did Saul see about being religious?

What did Saul see about religious traditions?

What did Saul see about his conscience?

### **3. He Saw He Must Do Something To Be Saved**

What did Saul see about being saved by faith alone?

What did Saul see about being saved by prayer?

What did Saul see about the need for obedience?

What did Saul see about the need for baptism?

What did Saul see about the need to live for Jesus?

